Demian Syndrome

volume 2 chapter 10b

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STORM IN HEAVEN
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THAT IDIOT! HE DIDN'T GET PERMISSION TO STAY OUT!
FORGET IT AS LONG AS HE RETURNS BEFORE CURFEW
...!
TAKAYAMA AND... KOBAYASHI?!
WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
WHY...
Are the plans today still on? Please contact me
— AKIO —
Do CoMon
WHAT AM I WORRYING ABOUT?
HE ISN'T A CHILD ANYMORE.
!
WHY SHOULD I BOTHER...?

WHO DO YOU KEEP TALKING ON THE PHONE WITH?
NEITHER MY PARENTS NOR MY FRIENDS KNOW...
OF MY SECOND HOME...
SEND
SAVE

COFFEE & B
UCC
COLD!
TERRA TERRA
I'M SERIOUSLY FREEZING!
AHCHOO!
OF COURSE YOU IDIOT... EVEN THOUGH IT'S SUNNY OUT IT'S ALMOST DECEMBER.
There we are
AREN'T YOU TWO A BIT UNDER-DRESSED TO RIDE IN ON A BIKE?
I'm the only one dressed for the weather

The crutch is in the car with the equipment
HIS LEG'S INJURED, AND HE NEEDS A CRUTCH
OH
CHATTER
IT'S NOT LIKE...
IT-
CLONK
THAT!
CHATTER
IS IT REALLY THAT COLD?
...BUT YOU'RE STILL THE FIRST GUY WHO'S HAD TO BE DRAGGED IN
I'm warmed up
EVEN IF IT'S LATE WHY DON'T YOU WEAR THIS
I'LL BE AT THE LIVE HOUSE. YOU CAN COME OVER WHEN YOU'RE FEELING BETTER
MY MY...
You're really a bad role model
HOW COULD YOU USE A MOTORBIKE TO CARRY AROUND SOMEONE WITH AN INJURED LEG?
ACHOO!
IT'S OKAY, IT'S ALMOST HEALED
YOU WANT SOME KOBAYASHI?
You might as well ♡
What do you mean might as well?
No Thanks!!
Hr.
...I'VE GOT SOME COLD MEDS.
Let's see...
WANT SOME?
CRUNCH
OH
THANK YOU!
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
!
IT'S A DRY RUN, AND WE'RE SINGING THE OPENING SONG, SO WE'VE GOT TO START REHEARSING AT THREE SEE YOU LATER.
CHOO!

YOU'RE SO CUTE!
WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT LITTLE PLAY-BOY?
I-...
I CAN'T,
YOU CAN JOIN THE CELEBRATION AFTER OUR PERFORMANCE!
Yeah!
I'VE GOT CURFEW...
HAHAHA
For the sake of things
EVEN THOUGH I CAME WITHOUT THINKING...
Should I leave?
GETTING IN YOUR WAY?
AREN'T I
C'mon!
Rules were made to be broken!
ARE THE RULES MORE IMPORTANT THAN MY INVITATION!?
NO WAY!
I just...
DON'T WANT TO MAKE A MESS FOR THE PORM MANAGER!
KUH!?
OK, THAT'S ENOUGH, BOTH OF YOU
Urrah...
CURFEW
YOU'RE HERE ALREADY, AREN'T YOU? FORGET CURFEW, YOU GOODY-TWO-SHOES!
YOU!
YOU WERE PLANNING THIS FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, WEREN'T YOU!?
IT'S SATURDAY, SO JUST BREAK THE RULES THIS ONCE!
Uhh... time!

Psh~
DJ it will also be there man, what a pity!
THERE'LL BE THREE OTHER BANDS AND A SPECIAL CONCERT.
don't come running to me then!
It takes nearly an hour to get back.
It's found down ♥
Here!
HERE. YOUR REWARD! A TIME-TABLE FOR THE ♥ TRAIN
YOU'RE REALLY SOMETHING NOT GIVING INTO KOBA LIKE THAT
TCH!
GRRR
THANKS!
I don't care about the other bands!
I ONLY CAME TO LISTEN TO YOUR SONG!
THUNK
←Kobayashi
Kobayashi! 760 yen for the coffee!
IS HE REALLY THAT IMPULSIVE?
Hmm
It can't be helped, let's go
He's lost
OH, THAT'S RIGHT
smile
It's almost three.
BY THE WAY, WHAT'S A DRY RUN?
OH!
OPEN 18:30 START 19:00
Cancel
THANK YOU SOLD OUT
Recall
LIVE HOUSE
369
B1F

TO THINK JVDVN COULD ACTUALLY MAKE IT SO FAR
AND WHILE THEY WERE STILL IN SCHOOL TOO THIS IS REALLY IMPRESSIVE
IT'S SO STRICT FOR THE REGULARS SO I EXPECT IT'LL BE EVEN WORSE FOR THOSE JUST STARTING OUT
YOU GET FREQUENT CHECKS IF YOU SING AT THE LIVE HOUSE AND EXTRAS IF YOU'RE ON ALL NIGHT
BUT A GROUP LIKE THAT WILL LEAD ITSELF TO RUIN EVENTUALLY
BECAUSE THEY'RE REALLY LUCKY
HUH?
Not too shabby at all!
THEY ACTUALLY CAME UP WITH SOMETHING LIKE "WAITING CRY"
MPHH
MPHH
IF THEY START TO GET COMPLACENT
I WON'T LET THEM PERFORM ON OUR STAGE BUT
I hate it when fans come here!

BAM!!
HUH?
ERM. I'M.
I CAN SEE WHY!
THE OWNER?!
EH? I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU BEFORE WHICH BAND ARE YOU IN?
I THOUGHT HE WAS THE DOOR-MAN
TAKAYAMA! ARE YOU LISTENING?!
I'M WORKING MY ASS OFF AND YOU'RE JUST PICKING UP GIRLS, YOU BASTARD!
We're about to start!
Takayama— don't move the screen before we actually start!
Do you remember the order we men tioned?
ERM THIS IS JUST A REHEARSAL
STOMP
J-V-W has four people
MY— HOW RARE
What's with him?
THE OWNER CAME FOR A REHEARSAL?
HERE I'M HIDING IN THE CORNER
The bands rehearsing today
WHO'S THAT?
NO IDEA.

I'M WAITING FOR YOU AT THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GREY FOG.
I'VE HEARD YOUR CRIES.
JUST STAY THERE AND LET ME BELIEVE IN YOUR EXISTENCE
YOU'RE FIGHTING THAT'S WHAT I BELIEVE!
REALLY...
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE REALLY LISTENED TO IT
So it goes like that.
BUT DOES KOBAYASHI HAVE SOMEONE SPECIAL TO HIM? WHY WOULD HE WRITE A SONG LIKE THAT ?
THIS IS LIKE

EVEN THOUGH THAT'S HOW I FELT NOT LONG AGO...
I SAID I LIKED THIS SONG SO THE CAT'S OUT OF THE BAG THEN
IT'S TOO LATE FOR REGRETS THOUGH
WHY ARE THOSE FEELINGS SO DISTANT FROM ME NOW? (THAT SHOCKS ME EVEN MORE)
CAN YOU HEAR ME SHOUTING?
GOING PAST THIS GREY FOG, MEETING AGAIN IN THAT FUTURE AHEAD
EVEN THOUGH WE'RE FAR APART, I KNOW YOU'RE STILL WAITING FOR ME AT THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GREY FOG
I TRULY BELIEVE IN THAT
OH!
WHOOPS, I MEAN, IT WAS REALLY COOL, REALLY GREAT!
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WROTE IT... THAT...
Amazing!
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
ISN'T IT?
OH CRAP... THE CRUTCH IS IN THE VAN.
IT'S ALREADY FOUR.
I'LL GRAB IT MYSELF.
WHY'S THERE A SONG LIKE THIS?
EVEN THOUGH IT'S NOT EXACTLY THE SAME
WHAT I FELT WHEN I WAS IN AMERICA
BUT

LIVE HO
369
TOUR
EH...
IS IT REALLY HERE?
OH... CRAP... I FORGOT TO RETURN HIS JACKET
It's really a pity, isn't it, Target
WHAT SHOULD I DO? DO I HAVE TO GO BACK ?
XXL! XXL!
LUCKILY, THERE'S STILL TIME
Though I don't need a crutch on level ground...
Damn!
IT'S STILL HARD TO CLIMB STAIRS
WITHOUT A CRUTCH
Aw Man!
SO THEY'RE HAVING A SECRET CONCERT WITHOUT EVEN TELLING THE FANS!
THAT SUCKS!
Those horrid 369 guys...! and Live House too!
55!
SO THEY STOPPED PLAYING WITH "369"?
BUT THERE'S A JCVDW CAR OUTSIDE
Mm... saw it
Ohh!
SOMEONE JUST CAME OUT...

BINGO!!
YES!
This is wonderful!
LOOK AT OUR LUCK! IT'S HIM!
HEY, HEY! WAIT!
!?
OH!

LIVEHOUSE
369
B1F
Hey, hey!
DO YOU HAVE TICKETS?
DO YA?
FOR JOJO'S LIVE CONCERT!
Why are you wearing AR I wish I was!
OH
ISN'T THAT KOBAYASHI'S JACKET?
THANK YOU
DAMN!
I WOULD HAVE RETURNED THE JACKET TO HIM FIRST IF I KNEW THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN
SO IT'S ALL GUYS
OH... THE ROCK CONCERT TODAY IS GOING TO BE REALLY ROUGH.
WELL...
PLEASE!
We just want tickets!
COME ON, PLEASE HELP US OUT!
A WOMAN WALKED IN EARLIER!
LIAR!
WHAT?!
LIKE I'D BELIEVE THAT!
THAT WAS PROBABLY AN ASSISTANT...
wa!
55

Oh! I want to touch it too!
Oh! Me too!
THEY REALLY LIKE KOBAYASHI
AT LEAST... LET ME TOUCH THIS FOR A WHILE
!
55
AH
THEY JUST WANT TO GET CLOSER TO HIM
——BUT
IT'S SO IRRITATING
THAT'S WHAT I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT IN THE PAST.
SAME WITH AZUMA.
THAT'S WHY WE GOT ALONG SO WELL.
BUT NOW I
DON'T YOU CARE A LITTLE TOO MUCH.
JO?

IF WE DON'T SAY ANYTHING, WE'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER.
FINDING OUT EVERYTHING ABOUT ME IS YOUR IDEA OF A FRIENDSHIP GAME?
AM I WRONG ?
OUT OF THE WAY!
YOU OVER THERE!
PEN18 30 ST
THANK Y
!
The entrance is narrow!
DON'T BLOCK THE WAY!
Thank you Gold Dust
OH... BRING THE EQUIPMENT IN FIRST!
CRAP! IT'S THE OTHER BAND!
SORRY!
EH, WHY DON'T YOU GO TO KOBAYASHI AND
LET'S GO OVER THERE!
LET'S JUST MOVE NOW...
HOP
On the bag
55

NO
MY GIBSON!
JUMP
GAH!
OH!
THUD
TCH!
AHH!
POW
WA
TH
CH
!!
...!
Touch!
WHO FELL DOWN THIS TIME?
Ahhh!
(crash bang)
EXIT
HUH?
!!

I'M FINE I'M REALLY GOOD AT FALLING
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU OKAY?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHAT'S GOING ON? ARE YOU OKAY?
EH?
KNOCK
Hey! KO-BAYASHI, IT'S YOUR FRIEND!
PROTECTED
EH?
EH? WHY'S THERE A GUITAR...?
!
HAD BETTER TOE THE LINE!
YOU GIRLS
I'M REALLY SORRY!
WATCH OUT JCVDW!
CRAP
365 Days

IT'S DANGEROUS FOR GIRLS TODAY THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T LET YOU COME
GET IT? BE GOOD AND COME AROUND THE NEXT TIME.
You really wanna see Hino?
OKAY!
Woah! Kobayashi! Is really?! Awful!
Sorry!
GEEZ
HUH?
I RAN INTO THOSE GIRLS
I have climb them again
MAN
Wobble
WHY DIDN'T YOU FETCH YOUR CRUTCH?
Get going
!?
Watch out!
Wobble
HUH
Alright
I'LL GO WITH YOU
DON'T YOU NEED TO GO BACK ON STAGE?
GRAB
Uhh

TAKA-YAMA!
HEY...
I'LL SAW IT OFF LATER, OKAY?
HMM? THAT TREE BRANCH IS BLOCKING THE VIEW OUTSIDE...
REALLY, TAKESHI?
ARE YOU SURE? YOU RARELY STOP BY.
...DON'T SAY THAT...

YOU ALWAYS COME BACK HERE
I'M STILL GOOD ENOUGH, SINCE I HELP TRIM THE PLANTS AT SCHOOL SOMETIMES
"THAT'S WHY I'M HERE."
ALTHOUGH I'M NOTHING COMPARED TO A GARDENER
Not really
AND CALL ME TOO
I'M REALLY VERY HAPPY THANK YOU
NO IT'S OKAY
I'M SORRY
LET'S TALK SOME MORE
MY POOR HUSBAND USED TO SAY THAT
HOW DID IT GO WITH YOUR STEPFATHER? YOU'RE STAYING THE NIGHT, RIGHT?
THAT'S GOOD.
SHE'S BEEN DEPRESSED LATELY...
HOW IS SHE?
SHE'S FINE, SHE'S FALLEN ASLEEP.

AND THEN YOU BROKE THE RECORD ON THE HEAVY EXERCISE BIKES.
Oh!
THOSE ARE COMPLETELY UNRELATED!
How cute!
you say that!
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO BE MORE FEMININE, AND DRESSING UP LIKE THIS
Have you seen the ZIP out info?
FORGET THAT!
HEY
You're even stronger than a guy
LOOK AT YOU TALK
YOU KNOW KARATE AND AIKIDO
THIS HOUSE IS TOO BIG,
AND I'M NOT COMFORTABLE BEING THE ONLY ONE AT HOME
Hehe
BEAR WITH IT.
YOU'VE GOTTEN MEANER.
How boring.
TCH...
...IT'S STILL BRIGHT ...
AKIO.
HOW ABOUT WE GIVE IT A TRY ...
BEFORE DINNER?

Laura
Laura
Ack
The white on all yours, there.
What do you mean, I reach for you?
Hmm.
Oh...
You're aw, Ike.
Lim, what—?
16
Ciel
You got dizzy and fainted.
This is the coffee shop across the street.
Call them?
Yup
Where I got the cold medicine

YOU WERE TRYING TO HELP THEM, WEREN'T YOU?
YOU DID ME A FAVOUR.
EH?
THANKS FOR EARLIER
I NEED AT LEAST AN HOUR TO GET BACK TO JOHOKU FROM HERE
What do you like?
THERE'S NO WAY ROUND IT, WHY DON'T YOU REST SOME MORE?
YOU WANT SOMETHING TO DRINK?
I'm doomed.
DUNNN
IT'S ALMOST FIVE...
AH
SEIRAN'S CURFEW IS AT FIVE-THIRTY
NO I SHOULD BE APOLOGIZING
I'VE CAUSED YOU...
JUMP
YIKES! THE CURFEW!
DON'T GET ALL EXCITED YOU CAN'T MAKE IT ANYMORE

BASTARD
Don't mock me
WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
IT'S 'CAUSE ...
WILL INSTANT DO?
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE REAL COFFEE
HEY!
LADY, GET HIM SOMETHING HOT TO DRINK!
Don't admit that &
YOU'RE REALLY TOO MUCH
EHHHEE
That's true
With you guys still here no less!
IT'S THE BOSS' FAULT FOR RUNNING OFF MID-SHIFT!
I'm just helping him watch the store!
I'll get you an instant
THAT'S HOW IT IS GIVE IT UP, KOBAYASHI
GULP
HEY!
THAT'S MY...
Geez
FINE, FINE, JUST HURRY AND BRING IT OVER!
Thanks
I'LL JUST HAVE THIS
What kind of a cafe is this?
Pretty cola
Favorite
DON!
16

HUH?
THAT IS WHY HE LOOKS DOWN ON ME
I DIDN'T MEAN FOR THINGS TO TURN OUT LIKE THAT
You're younger than me after all.
HA-A...
THAT WAS A DOUBLE...
ARE YOU OKAY?
That was beer.
CLINK
HE DOESN'T NEED ME AT ALL...
HE'S ALWAYS ALONE, BUT HE CAN DO EVERYTHING SO WELL...
WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH ANYTHING?
I WAS DECEIVING YOU
I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY RIGHT TO BE WITH YOU RIGHT NOW
BEEP
THE REASON WHY I CAME HERE WITH YOU...
WAS TO TRY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THAT MOCK EXAM THING...
I WAS THE ONLY ONE THINKING I WAS ON PAR WITH HIM...

WHAM
WHAT'S WITH YOU, ORANGE?
THERE'S NO NEED TO FEEL HELPLESS JUST 'CAUSE SOME THINGS AREN'T GOING YOUR WAY!
THUNK
Who cares about curfew anyway?
I JUST NEEDED SOMEONE TO TAKE IT FOR ME
BUT WHY DO YOU THINK AZUMA VOLUNTEERED?
HE SAID HE JUST WANTED TO SEE HOW GOOD HE WAS
THAT EXAM.
WOULD A NORMAL KID GO THROUGH ALL THAT TROUBLE JUST TO FIND WHERE THEY STAND?
OF COURSE! BUT HE SAID--
YOU CAN JUST TAKE THE EXAM UNDER YOUR OWN NAME, DON'T YA THINK?
THAT HE USED HIS REAL NAME BEFORE. BUT THE SCHOOL KEPT FISHING FOR INFORMATION SO HE GOT REALLY IRRITATED
BUT WAS THE SCHOOL WHAT REALLY ANNOYED HIM?
HUH?

COFFEE & BAR
IT SEEMED LIKE HE WAS PUSHING HIMSELF FROM HIS FAMILY
BUT HE DIDN'T SEEM TO HATE HIS FAMILY
LIKE HE DIDN'T WANT TO GET UNNECESSARILY INVOLVED IN ANYTHING...
I DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S GOOD OR BAD...
I DID EVERYTHING TO LET MY FAMILY OR RATHER MY DAD SEE THE RESULTS HE WANTED YET HE DID THE OPPOSITE...
AND WAS VERY THOROUGH ABOUT IT
BUT I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY HE WANTED TO DO THAT
YOU KNOW SOMETHING?
HE HASN'T GONE HOME AT ALL IN THE PAST TWO YEARS
!
NEVER?
BUT HE HASN'T BEEN STAYING AT THE DORM THE WHOLE TIME...
THEN WHERE DOES HE...?
Dunno
HE'S NEVER TOLD ME
NOT SOMETHING I NEED TO KNOW YOU SEE

BUT NO MATTER WHAT...
AZUMA'S STILL GOT A LOT OF PEOPLE BEHIND HIM
HE'S PROBABLY NOT AS ALONE AS YOU THINK HE IS
He's really quite extraordinary
WHEN I WAS STILL IN SCHOOL, A LOT OF PEOPLE SEEMED TO KNOW HIM.
AND EVEN STUDENTS OLDER THAN ME SEEMED ON GOOD TERMS WITH HIM.
THE TEACHERS PROBABLY LIKED HIM A LOT, TOO.
THAT'S TRUE...
HE SEEMS PRETTY FRIENDLY WITH SHIBA...
AND TASUKU...
...BUT WHY...
HM?
WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME THIS?

BECAUSE YOU SAID YOU LIKED MY SONG...
MAYBE?
AND THAT SONG
eh?
C'MON... YOU KEEP TALKING ABOUT YOUR FRIEND
DON'T YOU TALK ABOUT GIRLS AT ALL? HAVE YOU GOT A GIRLFRIEND?
I'M SURE LOTS OF GIRLS COME KNOCKING AT YOUR DOOR, RIGHT?
Hm? You are kinda wussy, but
HUH? NOT REALLY...
TRY MAKING A GIRL-FRIEND.
IT'S FINE, I GET IT.
BESIDES, I HAD TEN GIRLS OR SO THAT I LEFT BEHIND IN AMERICA...
HEY, YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO HEAD HOME?
SO YOU'RE A LATE BLOOMER?
SO YOU ONLY CARE ABOUT AZUMA?
FWA—M
THUD
HOT DOGS KAMBREERS

YOU'VE GOT TO WATCH THE WHOLE SHOW NEXT TIME
THANKS. SORRY FOR INTRUDING
BOW
I'LL WALK HIM PART-WAY
The rest is yours, Mats—no prob-lem!
BRM
ABOUT TODAY. THANK YOU VERY MUCH
AL → CAME
SORRY, YOU'VE STILL GOT TO GO ON STAGE LATER
IT'S OKAY.
Don't worry about it
JUST NOW... WERE YOU EDIT-ING THE LYRICS FOR "WAITING CRY"?
The stuff about white and stuff
Oh...
HUH?
I PREFERRED THE OLD LYRICS. BUT THE NEW ONES SOUND GOOD TOO
I BET THE AUDI-ENCE WILL LIKE IT
GOOD LUCK!
Okay, this is far enough

Ambiguous Meaning
THAT'S RIGHT!
DAMN IT. THAT AZUMA
HE'S... SO CUTE!
What's wrong with me? I'm straight!
Pi
Text Message
THAT SHOULD DO IT
IT'S ALREADY FIVE-THIRTY
I SHOULD CALL THE DORM TO LET THEM KNOW
WE'D NORMALLY CALL OUR ROOMMATES
BUT AZUMA'S OUT OF THE DORM TONIGHT
I guess I should just do this
I'M REALLY SELFISH
THIS IS TURNING OUT TO BE A REAL PAIN.
HIM BEING HIM, HE'D BE SURE TO PESTER ME.
SIGH
SHOULD I CALL KURACHI?
BUT

SWIP
AKIO CAN'T HANDLE ALL THIS
I SHOULD COME HERE MORE REGULARLY
WELL, I GUESS I'LL STOP HERE...
AND FINISH THE REST TOMORROW
EH? A MESSAGE?
FROM KORAYASHI?
!
SUBJECT
The orange rabbit came crying to me. Serves you right.
▲katuya Kobayashi▲
END
NEXT
PREVIOUS
Menu
HELLO? HOW RARE OF YOU TO CALL ME.
JUST WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL!? WHAT DID YOU MEAN WITH THAT MAIL
SORRY, THE LINE'S BREAKING UP

KOTA-YASHI...
SORRY, DON'T FEEL LIKE TALK-ING OVER THE PHONE.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOUR FRIEND FOR YOU.
HEY...
BEEP
YOU CAN COME ON OVER IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
You've got a lot of friends.
Shut up. It's none of your business!
WHY WOULD MR. I'LL-DO-WHAT-I-WANT COME?
Who?
SOMEONE ...SE IS COMING?
IT'S JUST A LITTLE PRANK.
Or maybe harassment?
HELLO, THIS IS SEIRAN DORM MANAGER'S OFFICE...
RRR
WHAT? YOU THIS TIME?
SHIBA...? WHAT DO YOU MEAN, THIS TIME?
What happened?
HM? OH...
TAKA-YAMA CALLED ME JUST A LITTLE EARLIER.
TAKA-YAMA? AND?
WHY DO YOU ASK?

I heard the traffic in the background.
HE PROBABLY CALLED FROM A PAYPHONE.
I TRIED TO ASK WHERE HE WAS BUT HE DIDN'T ANSWER, AND JUST SAID THAT HE'D LET ME KNOW WHEN HE GOT BACK THEN HE HUNG UP
HE SEEMED OUT OF IT AND QUIETLY APOLOGIZED THAT HE COULDN'T MAKE CURFEW...
HE WAS A LITTLE OFF
OFF?
OFFICE
IF YOU KNOW, TELL ME WHERE HE IS NOW
DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING THAT I DON'T?
BACK AT THE DORM?
HE REALLY SAID THAT?
HE SAID HE'LL BE BACK AFTER SIX...
AZUMA?
HE DID CHECK IN, AND IF POSSIBLE, I'D LIKE TO COVER FOR HIM.
GUYS WHO'RE OUT LATE WITHOUT PERMISSION WILL GET REPRIMANDED
I NORMALLY DON'T CARE IF YOU STICK TO CURFEW, BUT TONIGHT IS DIFFERENT.
THE TEACHERS ARE COMING FOR A SPOT CHECK
GEEZ...

CHOK
CHOK
INFO ON THE JUNK VERDURE WOLVES JCVDW ...
WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON. ?
BESIDES, IT'S ALREADY SO LATE. HE PROBABLY
THIS IS TOTALLY POINTLESS
HUH?
HE...
HASN'T RETURNED ...?
コアム
コアム
ハァ?
ハァ?

IS WRONG WITH ME?
IS IT BECAUSE I FELL DOWN THE STAIRS? BUT I DIDN'T HIT MY HEAD
IT'S ALMOST LIKE WHEN I WAS DRUNK
BUT I DIDN'T DRINK
JUST WHAT
I CAN'T WALK TO THE STATION
MY HEAD IS SPINNING...
I'M STILL CONSCIOUS
BUT MY BODY WON'T RESPOND TO ME
HEY... WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU OKAY?
LARK
OH
I'LL JUST HAVE THIS
IS IT BECAUSE OF THAT? BUT THAT WAS JUST ONE GLASS. HOW CAN I POSSIBLY BE DRUNK?
High tolerance
I'D FORGOT THAT'S RIGHT
THE LIVER CAN'T PROCESS IT...
DAMN!
I'm really stup-it
OR MAYBE...
THAT COLD MEDICINE SHOULDN'T BE TAKEN WITH ALCOHOL?

OKAY?
YOU'RE DRUNK SO EARLY IN THE NIGHT?
THAT'S NO GOOD LET'S FIND A PLACE TO REST.
—UP.
YOU SHOULDN'T TOUCH ME...
IT'S CONTA-GIOUS.
EH?
BUT I DON'T CARE IF I INFECT YOU.
SMILE
THAT AL-RIGHT?
Tch!
HMPH!
IDIOT
MUCH SIMPLER THAN AMERI-CANS
Don't understand! I hate me (star!)
NOW WHERE
—BUT I REALLY WILL DIE IF I DON'T FIND A PLACE TO REST
AND I DON'T WANT TO BE HARASSED
WOBBLE
CLEANE
TO HIDE AND REST
I HAVEN'T FELT THIS BAD SINCE MY LAST ASTHMA ATTACK
I THOUGHT I WAS CURED SO I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN
Now I'm doomed.

BACK THEN I ALWAYS RELIED ON HIM TO HELP ME
HE WAS ALWAYS KEEPING ME COMPANY
BEING WITH HIM WAS REALLY NICE.
AS LONG AS I MEET HIM AGAIN WE'LL BE ABLE TO BE LIKE BEFORE. THAT'S WHAT I NAIVELY BELIEVED
EVEN AFTER I WENT TO AMERICA, I COULDN'T FORGET HIM
AZUMA HAS A WORLD OF HIS OWN
Side
IT'S LIKE MY MIND CAN'T THINK PAST HIM
clatter
IT'S SO OBVIOUS, AND YET I NEVER REALISED IT BEFORE.
SO YOU ONLY CARE ABOUT AZUMA?
REALLY
HOW'D THAT HAPPEN?
HA HA HA

I'M... REALLY SICK WITH AFFECTION...
THUD
JCVDW'S REALLY RIDING IT
Feeling happy?
he he he
Yeah!
WHAT'S THAT BRUISE ON HIS FACE?
SLOBBER
Po
12/
(m
BLA
TO
Verdu

THIS IS THE LAST PLACE...
IF HE ISN'T HERE, I'M OUT OF IDEAS.
THOUGH I WOULD HAVE PREFERRED NOT TO COME HERE IF I COULD AVOID IT...
NO...
BUT AT TIMES LIKE THESE...
IT'S OKAY! I'LL BE FINE AFTER I GET SOME REST. LET'S GO OVER THERE...
RUSTLE
HE ALWAYS.....
TOMP
!

30

HOW CAN YOU SLEEP IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...?
HEY... WAKE UP!
FOUND YOU! HOW MANY TIMES...
ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE ME WORRY...?
BR...
I
...TAKAYAMA...
...WAKE UP! PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!
HA...

...ODO?
WHERE AM I? WHY'M I....
?
stare
?
YOU CARELESS DUMBASS!
THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO JUST SPACE OFF
!
You almost scared me to death!
WE'LL TALK LATER
I DIDN'T TELL ANYONE
AZUMA?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? HOW DID YOU KNOW...?
Yikes!
You scared me!
FUMP

THIS ISN'T A DREAM IS IT?
IF IT'S NOT THEN THERE'S STILL
I CALLED THE DORM, DON'T WORRY
!
WERE YOU LOOKING FOR ME?
HE SAW THROUGH EVERYTHING ?
I'VE INCONVENIENCED HIM AGAIN...
YUP.
LET'S GO BACK CAN YOU WALK?
WHY

Ah!
WHY ARE YOU...?
I DON'T NEED YOU!! DON'T TOUCH ME!
TAKA-YUKI?
SORRY.
...WAS ME.
THAT'S WHY I WAS STUPID ENOUGH TO THINK TH IT THE PERSON CLOSEST TO YOU...
.....
IT'S ALL BEC. USE YOU ALWAYS APPEAR AT TIMES LIKE THESE...
THAT'S WHY I...

IS A PLACE WHERE I CAN'T JUST ENTER.
LET'S STOP WITH THIS FRIEND-SHIP GAME ALREADY.
YOU'VE ALREADY GOT A WORLD OF YOUR OWN
AND THAT PLACE...
THAT'S ALL A THING OF THE PAST.
THANK YOU FOR COMING TO FIND ME, EVEN IF YOU GAVE ME A SCARE ...
I'M STILL VERY HAPPY.
AZUMA.
THE TRUTH IS BOTH THEN AND NOW...
THAT YOU'RE ONLY KIND TO THOSE WHO ARE WEAK...

EVEN THEN I KNEW...
YOU HID YOUR MOCKING FACE FROM ME...
WHEN I LEFT THE HOSPITAL AFTER ESCAPING DEATH, WE MADE A PROMISE...
IT WAS LIKE THE PROMISE CAME AT THE PRICE OF MY RIGHT LEG...
I DON'T WANT YOU TO FORCE YOURSELF TO BE MY FRIEND
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BOTHER WITH ME ANYMORE
THANK YOU FOR KEEPING ME COMPANY FOR SO LONG
YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT NOW

I'M USED TO ALL THIS.
I'LL HANDLE MY OWN PROBLEMS.
JUST GO BACK.
PLEASE.
GRAB
!
AZUMA!
COUGH, OH...
COUGH
COUGH
WOOZ
FLL
FUMP
WHO'D LISTEN TO A DRUNK?
I'M TELLING YOU!

AZUMA

fump
MPH!
YOU IDIOT...
...SEE, YOUR FEVER GOT WORSE
I'M THE ONE WHO DECIDED TO NURSE YOU...
Ugh
PASSING OUT OVER THERE
I TOLD YOU JUST LEAVE ME...
SO SHUT UP AND LET ME TAKE CARE OF YOU!

...BACK THEN...
SINCE WAY BACK THEN, I'VE THOUGHT OF THAT AS MY DUTY

THERE WAS A TRANSFER STUDENT IN THE ELEMENTARY DIVISION...
!?
HE WAS REALLY DISTANT, AND DIDN'T SPEAK TO ANYONE FOR A WHILE AFTER HE TRANSFERRED.
HE WOULDN'T REPLY IF PEOPLE SPOKE TO HIM...
BUT HE FINALLY SMILED ONE DAY.
BACK THEN.
NO MATTER WHAT I REALLY WANTED TO BE FRIENDS WITH HIM
WHO WOULD HAVE GUESSED ...
THE ONLY PERSON WHO'D MAKE ME FEEL THAT WAY...
PAST OR PRESENT... HAS BEEN YOU.
ARE MY WORDS...
BUT...
I APOLOGISE FOR WHAT I SAID EARLIER TODAY.
FOR SAYING "ARE YOU HAPPY NOW?"

I WAS REALLY TENSE BECAUSE I HAD TO GO VISIT MY STEPFATHER.
IT'S MY FAULT.
BUT THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT I DON'T WANT YOU TO KNOW EITHER.
THAT'S WHY...
I GET IT!
I GET IT ALREADY!
DON'T SAY ANYMORE!
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR YOU APOLOGISE!
I'M THE ONE WHO'S AT FAULT!
JO...
LET'S GO BACK, JO.
TOGETHER.
DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO SHUT UP?!

I'LL ASK KOBAYASHI TO PICK IT UP LATER.
HIDE IT IN THE BUSHES
WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH THE CRUTCH...?
From what I recall you don't have a license...
...HEY...
DON'T TELL ME THIS BIKE'S YOURS?
NOPE
EH!?
NO! I DON'T WANT HIM TO DO ANY MORE FOR ME!
Why would you even suggest that?
I'D BETTER CARRY IT!
Just leave it there
I'LL COME GET IT LATER.
IT CAN'T BE A GOOD IDEA TO HEAD BACK LIKE THIS?
I'm a mess, and bikes are against school rules.
JUST DON'T FALL OFF.
QUIT WORRYING.
TELLING ME NOT TO FALL OFF...
Jo's jacket + a wind-breaker
HOW C... I POSSIBLY FALL OFF LIKE THIS...?
knotte.16

TELLING ME NOT TO WORRY... WHAT DOES HE HAVE IN MIND?
I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S THINKING...
LET'S GO.
——— WHERE TO?
FORGET IT, IT DOESN'T MATTER
THINKING IS JUST A WASTE OF TIME.
THE DORM OR THE HOSPITAL, EITHER ONE WORKS.
Anything as long as I'm not the one who gathers...
I JUST WANT TO GO ON LIKE THIS FOREVER
affection Ende

See you next Stage!!